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editorial ek ek

I must be getting old...

With the passage of time, standards change. When I was a kid, the standard for saying, "Whoopee! Christmas is here!" is — like writer Nick Ballesteros states in this ish's @nime — when local stations start showing kiddie Yuletide favorites like ***Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer***, ***Frosty the Snowman*** and that cartoon about the little troll prince who discovered the joy of Christmas and thus, opted to live as an elf instead.

But nowadays, the standard for exclaiming "Whoopee! Christmas is here!" is when your 13th month pay finally gets handed to you.

When I was a kid, Christmas was the very, very best time of the year because you get lots and lots of presents. Nowadays, you're the one who gives lots and lots of presents. Not only that, the list gets longer each year.

That's how I currently start my Christmas rituals, I list down all the people I'm going to give gifts to. This year, the list spans two pages of notebook paper. Orororooo! With pen and list in hand, I then troop to *tyangge* central, otherwise known as the Greenhills Shopping Center, which is conveniently just a few blocks away from the ***Questor*** office.

Peculiar thing, this tyangge culture that we have. For me, there are two times to best visit the tyangge. One is when they've just started unveiling their wares, preparing to begin the day. At this time, all the *tinderas* are still *genki*, ready to assist you in every way as well as courteous in answering all questions. They've even been known to engage in cheery banter every now and then. That's because they are eager to make the first sale of the day (*buena mano*, in the vernacular). However, it's not always the best time to haggle, they still have the energy to turn you down every time you attempt to reduce the price (*tawad*).

The other time is about an hour or so before closing time. This is when tawad powers are at their most potent. The tinderas will most likely succumb to tawaran because of several reasons: 1) it's the end of the day and they are too tired to haggle with you, 2) they're pooped, hungry and anxious to go home so they are eager to get rid of any remaining pesky customers so they can pack up already, and — the type which is most vulnerable to tawaran — 3) there are some who fail to make any transaction during the course of the day (*walang benta)* so they would welcome you, even if you are a pesky haggler, just to nail a sale.

Caveat though, tinderas are also most irritable at this time so there are instances when the tawad system will backfire. Heck, there are always exceptions. ^_^v

After I'm done with the shopping, of course, wrapping comes next. Sometimes, funds for wrapping paper run out, so I just use newspapers or cellophane or whatever is handy. Hey, it's not a case of being cheap, it's being environment-friendly! Recycling, man. ^ ^;

The wrapped gifts are then placed under the Christmas tree. And all that's left to do is sit back, hibernate a bit, wait for *noche buena* hour. Then it's finally time to pig out, hug the loved ones, unwrap the presents and take pictures.

Whoopee! Christmas is here!

Meri Kurisumasu!

Bambi,
the red-nosed Henshucho

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REGENT CAKES

PERFECT PANG ARAW-ARAW, SARAP KASI EH!

Mas masaya ang eskwela kung may REGENT cakes na kasama!

Ito ang paborito naming baon!

Christmas Gifts Plus 2002

ANYTHING GOES SCARF

Product code: R.5
Homemade shawl, er, fishing net, no, scarf! Yellow, made from wool or cotton (with Akane, who knows), rather raggedy with the initials RS embroidered at one end.

Yes folks, this was Akane's present to Ranma during the ***Tendo Family Christmas Scramble***. The martial arts boy accepted it, graciously saying that he was probably the only who could stand wearing something like it.

COOKIES A LA SORA

Product code: Digimon_02
Homemade cookies by a Digidestined.

It's not so much the gift but the circumstances that sometimes make a gift quite significant. Sora baked some cookies for her Yamato and decided to give them to him just before his concert. But she got cold feet and who was there to help her to go on but the person said to be in love with her, Taichi. Here was a classic case of giving up your chance so long as your loved one is happy. Perfect for the season of giving.

CAKE A LA DEJIKO

Product code: Di_Gi_Charat
Tempting cake with a special "boom" surprise.

Dejiko, long time nemesis of main guy Usada, decided to give the boy a cake with a special, nasty ingredient. When she thought her scheme had worked she suddenly felt a stab (literally!) of conscience. Tis the season too of (for)giving!

BLOOD AND SNOW PAINTING

Product code: Van_Dread
A blue and white painting depicting the flow of blood with snow mixed with it.

Coming from a man who knew nothing about gift-giving and only lived for science, Duero sure came up with something romantic. Sure the other men gave presents but his gift surpassed them all (okay maybe the flower from Hibiki was nice too, flowers do have a good effect on most girls). First off, Duero painted his gift by himself, with just the intention of giving something that will give pleasure to someone. Sure it was still quite technical since it was supposed to depict the flow of blood in the bloodstream. But still, the addition of snow was unique and romantic in itself. Giving it to a special someone whom he couldn't quite understand was an added bonus.

Gift Ideas for Your Loved Ones, Anime-Style

Tis the season for giving. Don't know yet what to give to your family, friends or that special someone? Why not give something that will be significant? Significant because your favorite anime characters gave it to their own loved one. Now let them be your guide through this Christmas Gifts Plus 2002 Catalog.

CRYSTAL COMMUNICATOR

Product code: M_K_Rayearth

A reddish crystal that supposedly grants wishes but is actually a communication device.

Ferio, a mysterious boy who happens to drop in on the Magic Knights, gave this to the knight of Windam, Fuu. It was one half of a pair of crystals that he said could grant any wish but it was just a tool for him to spy on the three girls and execute his plan of capturing them for Zagato. Unfortunately for him, he started falling for Fuu so much that he turned coat. In the end, it was revealed that the crystals were a gift from Princess Emeraude, Ferio's older sister.

DANGLING EARRING

Product code: W_Kreuz

Gold with a dangling extension.

Just before a car hit the real Aya Fujimiya, her brother Ran gave her a pair of gold dangling earrings as a gift. When her accident happened, her brother took on her name, and one of the earrings, as he began his new life as an assassin. The earring was to remind the new Aya that his ultimate purpose in life was now to avenge his comatose sister by hunting down Reiji Takatori and making him pay for ruining his family, his life, his *imouto*.

GAEAN NECKLACE WITH ATLANTEAN PENDANT

Product Code: T_n_Escaflowne

A golden necklace with a red obelisk-shaped pendant. It can grant wishes, shape destiny, see invisible enemies, predict the future, be an im-

promptu stopwatch and can even double as a dowsing tool to find missing objects or people.

Hitomi Kanzaki got this necklace from her grandmother who in turn, got it from a man named Leon when she was transported for a brief period to the planet Gaea. It's one of the few relics from the lost city of Atlantis and thus, has the power of Atlantis to turn thoughts into reality. It was first introduced in the show when Amano, Hitomi's crush, saw it and commented that it was unusual. Hitomi then told him of its secret use. It can swing a whole arc every second even though, according to the **Escaflowne Compendium**, a pendulum must be one meter long for it to swing in an arc every second. Later on, Hitomi learned of its other and more potent power. It can grant wishes and change the fate of someone. She used this ability until she learned that you shouldn't play with other people's lives because we all must decide for ourselves how we want our lives to be.

HEIRLOOM DAGGER

Product code: V5

A small dagger with a dove engraved on the handle.

A family heirloom would be good as a gift any time. Take for example, the dagger of Lord Zardos of the Bozanian army. He got it from his mom who got it from his dad. Later on, he found out that the people he was fighting against and the man he despised were actually his family. His real father had been discriminated upon because he did not have the horns that proved that a Boazanian had royal blood. His real father escaped to Earth after giving a farewell present to his wife, the dagger that had been handed down to him. On Earth, his father became Dr Armstrong, who recognized the dagger just as Zardos was about to stab his younger brother with it.

HIRUSEKI

Product code: YYH

A simple yet elegant necklace made from leather with a pearl as a pendant.

This is the heritage the twins, Hiei and Yukina, got from their mother. Their mother had shed two tears when she had given birth to the two. The tears crystallized and

became pearls just like any tears Koorime shed. It was the only object that connected Hiei with his past and his family. Yukina gave hers to Hiei and asked him to find her brother, not knowing that the person she was looking for was right in front of her.

MODEL DINOSAUR

Product code: K_n_Omocha

A small model dinosaur.

Sana gave this to Hayama for a Christmas present. She was so happy when he said that he didn't hate it (meaning he actually liked it). What she didn't know was that Hayama had a model dino in his house that looked just like her present. Six-year-old Hayama had stared at it from a shop window until his dad bought it for him. 'Course the snowman and kiss that Hayama gave to Sana probably equaled her gift if not in price, at least in sentimental value.

PLASTIC PICTURE FRAME

Product code: R.5

A simple yet elegant plastic frame. Free picture of the whole ***Ranma 1/2*** gang plus some other characters from the Ranma 1/2 Movie.

For those without any talent for homemade gifts and have only a little cash in your pockets, might as well just buy something cheap like the frame Ranma gave to Akane. Put something equally cheap like that only picture lying around the house. Practical. Plus, you'll still have change for your trip to and from the shop. As Ranma said, "It's not much... but hey it's Christmas!"

PROMISE RING

Product code: A!MG

Circular. Gold. Worth ¥58,000.

Several years before he made that fateful call, young Keiichi made friends with a little girl underneath a cherry blossom tree growing near a temple. They played together for several days and even went around town where his friend saw some pretty toy rings. Keiichi didn't have enough money to buy her one so he made her promise to come back to that spot the next day so he could get her one. His friend agreed and they made a pact underneath the tree. But the next day, his friend didn't come to the meeting place and when he went to the temple, he found out that she was scolded for making that pact. As punishment, she had to erase his memory of their meeting. He agreed but his friend promised that one day, she would go back to him to fulfill their pact. Several years later, Keiichi met Belldandy and the completion of a promise began to revolve and connect just like the never-ending circle of a ring. A ring that Keiichi fights heaven and Earth for just to be able to give to his beloved.

A Christmas Story

The day before Christmas, Kasumi had a dream of Santa telling her to organize a party at the Tendo house. Santa said that something wonderful was going to happen. She followed her dream and managed to organize one — complete with special invitations for guests and sumptuous food — in just one day.

After the party, while she was cleaning up, she noticed a blue box that she thought someone had forgotten to open. When she opened it, nothing was inside except for some glittery dust that soon faded. Immediately after, Akane asked her to come out. Once on the balcony, she saw a meteor shower flashing across the sky and she believed that that was the gift: beauty and peace to all, for even just one night.

The End.

SAKABATOU

Product code: R_Kenshin

Meiji-era reverse edged sword. The blunt side cannot cut people. Optional sword-fighting lessons from a former *hitokiri* available.

In the second OVA, Kenshin gave his *sakabatou* to Yahiko after teaching the young man the ways of the Hiten Mitsurugi. This was his graduation gift and the sign that Yahiko could now take over the saving-the-ones-you-love business. Just like the *bokken* that Kaoru gave to Yutaro before the boy went back to Germany, it was a reminder of the defender in Yahiko that he must never forget.

STONE RING

Product code: Strange_Dawn

Circular. Stone. Comes with a cute and cuddly small warrior with an attitude.

Need a cheap way of telling someone you care for him or her? Then this is your answer. Of course, money doesn't really exist in the world of Shal and Reka so that's not much of an issue. The issue may be that Shal was only able to give it after so many trials and only after finally being honest with himself that he felt something for Reka.

Gifts Plus 2002

TRANSFORMATION BROOCH

Product code: S_moon
Red circular crystal surrounded by intricate golden trimmings. Free black cat with every purchase.

When Luna, the black guardian cat from the moon, was saved from some naughty kids by a teener named Usagi Tsukino, she didn't know that her mission of finding the princess of the moon was at an end. When she saw the golden moon symbol on the forehead of the blond 14-year-old girl with hair buns, she thought she'd found just one of the Sailor warriors. She gave Usagi the transformation brooch which could transform the girl into Sailormoon. She gave Usagi the mission to fight evil and find the Princess of the Moon not knowing that she was really giving the princess what was her by birthright.

TWILIGHT GEMINI

Product code: LIII
Pinkish diamond, rather large.

Lupin's grandfather gave him the Twilight Gemini as a present while the old man was on his deathbed. This gem was supposedly the key to the treasure of a legendary kingdom called Gelf, located in Morocco, which was destroyed a long time ago. Hoax or not, Lupin and company could not resist the temptation of a bounty so off they went to Morocco for some dangerous treasure hunting.

WEDDING NECKLACE

Product code: FY
Local craft made from beads and feathers.

Little Yuiren made this as a wedding gift to Tamahome's "bride" Miaka. She wanted to give this on their wedding day but was never given the chance because she and the rest of Tamahome's family was killed. She was clasping it when Tamahome found her before she breathed her last.

SPECIAL OFFERS!!!

Still don't know what to give, especially to that special someone? Why not try giving her or him our patented Sweet Kiss. This is the all-season gift that conveys your feelings in no uncertain terms.

If you think *that* is still not good enough, try the never-failed gift of "Giving Up Your Life". Yep, we're talking big time dying-for-someone-you-love. Sorata of ***X/1999*** would probably give a testament to its effectivity but he's dead. But hey, saving your loved one and dying, it's like hitting two birds at the same time! Of course, you'll never be able to enjoy that person's gratitude since you'll be dead, but don't people always say that it's the thought that counts?

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Rudolph and His Gang of Yuletide Misfits

by Igor Cabbab

You've all heard of Rudolph through various songs sung during this season (plus, you may have also heard of Olops, the other reindeer courtesy of **Parokya ni Edgar**). But do you remember those stop-motion animated features they usually show during the Yuletide season? Well, there was the story of Rudolph and also one of Frosty the snowman. Then there's also one with Rudolph meeting misfit toys, a toymaking elf who wants to be a dentist and a kind, abominable snowman who offers shelter to Rudolph and the toys during a nasty snow storm. Throw in a talking Sam the snowman for a narrator and a toytaker villain and what do you get? A memorable show you can watch with your brothers and sisters (or even your kids, when you have them when you grow older!) every Christmas time.

Oh, and Santa's in it too.

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Christmas with Hayao Miyazaki

by Nick Ballesteros

I was sifting through various ideas in my mind as I wandered across the Internet. Last year's Christmas shopping was nothing short of a nightmare, having done it two days away from *Noche Buena*! I thought of doing a guide to giving that ultimate anime gift. A dozen online stores later, I realized it was quite a common affair; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out if your friends will like that Pikachu UFO catcher doll, or that ***Rurouni Kenshin*** CD soundtrack.

Then I toyed with a handful of other thoughts on the best Yuletide subject (decorations, venues, parties, etc). But with so many things you can come up with for a meaningful anime Christmas, I found myself wandering from one site to another, aimlessly looking for that single flash of inspiration.

And then it came to me. I suddenly remembered what it was like being a kid at Christmas. Of course toys are good, but for me, Christmas season has arrived when a bunch of my friends and I spend the afternoon weekend watching these clay-animation Christmas specials on TV. A local station faithfully played ***Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*** and ***Frosty the Snowman*** year after year. And we'd watch them in rapt attention, like we have never seen it the previous year, or the year before that. I also remember my mom busy in the kitchen on Christmas Eve while us kids snuck out some food every now and then, or played in the street with our faces flushed with excitement, and our sister getting us into our jackets, mufflers and bonnets.

My Christmases are memorable because of that warm feeling inside. And surely it's not coming from the layer of clothes we wore to protect us from the cold Baguio weather. Christmas is a joyful event because it's a time to set aside our worries and challenges, be together as a family and celebrate Christ's birth.

And what better way to make your Christmas meaningful this year than to share a good story with your family and friends while waiting for the clock to strike twelve? A good anime home video will be something different. Plus, the kids can have something to busy themselves with while preparations for Noche Buena and entertaining guests are in progress.

Your audience will expect you to show Christmas-themed videos.

However, most anime only show minimal scenes of the Yuletide season. But you can't go wrong with select works of **Miyazaki**.

Hayao Miyazaki is a recognized name in Japan (and in the anime community worldwide) as one of the pillars of the anime industry. His creative flair for making illustrations come to life and characters so endearing you talk about them like they're for real has made his name synonymous to classic masterpieces.

His works always connote positive outlooks in life even in the midst of trials. While he writes with the younger audience in mind, his attention to detail and engaging plots make his works a favorite with the adult audience as well.

A listing of feel-good works are included in the latter section of this article. You definitely can't go wrong with Miyazaki doing the storytelling for you. And while you're surfing the Net, learn more about the man behind the works, his love of aviation and of nature in general.

Hayao Miyazaki Links

studio ghibli

http://www.ntv.co.jp/ghibli/

This is the animation studio headed by Miyazaki and associates. Interestingly enough, Ghibli is an Italian

word and is pronounced *jee-blee* (or *ji-bu-ri* in Japanese). The term means "hot wind blowing through the Sahara Desert", and was alluded to Italian scouting planes during World War II.

And if you think that sort of trivia is very interesting, wait till you get to visit the link below! The official **Studio Ghibli** site is in Japanese actually, so go visit the next best thing: **Nausicaa.net**. This site is so comprehensive, one media outfit mistakenly took it for the official Studio Ghibli site!

nausicaa.net

http://www.nausicaa.net/
Also called the **Hayao Miyazaki Web**, this is one spectacular site! The people behind Team Ghiblink and its contributors have put up one excellent, one-stop, English website for enthusiasts of Miyazaki's works. Nausicaa.net gives you news on *Studio Ghibli*'s past projects as well as upcoming works, a biography and FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on Miyazaki himself, and detailed descriptions of the movies they have come up with. The Studio Ghibli link itself is very detailed (history, agreement with *Disney*, for example) and makes for interesting reading. There's even a virtual tour of their office! Very nice, very friendly site. A must visit for Miyazaki fans.

Movie highlights @nausicaa.net
Here are some films you can share with your family and friends this Christmas season:

Kaze no Tani no Nausicaa (Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind). 111 minutes
Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind is made up of talk of warring kingdoms with the occasional acts of heroism here and there, but this masterpiece is really against war and promotes ecological conservation.

Warning: At the time Nausicaa was released, a "heavily-mutilated" version came out called ***Warriors of the Wind*** without the knowledge of its creators. And though this version came from the original, its being cut and diced is nothing short of appalling, making it lose its essence.

Tenkuu no Shiro Rapyuta (Laputa: Castle in the Sky). 124 minutes
Laputa is a science-fiction film with its mechanized robots and airships. An adventure that's sure to be a hit with the kids at home. In the midst of all the action, the movie carries with it the message of hope and compassion.

Tonari no Totoro (My Neighbor Totoro). 86 minutes
Totoro is a subtle film compared to the adventures that can be had with Nausicaa and Laputa. The Totoro is a forest creature that becomes a friend of two girls whose mother is gravely ill. The story is paced in a slow village-life sort of way, sharing with you the everyday humdrum of life at school and at home. It is rather sad, as the mother is away due to illness, and the story concludes in a sentimental way. This award-winning film exudes love and sense of family.

Majo no Takkyuubin (Kiki's Delivery Service). 102 minutes
Well, what do you know. In the past three articles that I have made, Kiki's Delivery Service wanted to make an appearance (though I no longer included her in the Witches article). If you still have a Halloween hangover, watch this after **Tim Burton**'s film. No scary ghouls this time, though. The movie teaches the importance of determination in accomplishing your goals, as well as the importance of friendship.

Kurenai no Buta (Porco Rosso). 93 minutes
Interestingly enough, this film started off as a short, half-hour or so feature in Japan Airlines' in-flight entertainment. It became immensely popular, and with Miyazaki's love of aviation, the story became a full-length movie. This is a fun film, made from the creator's love of flying, starring a pig pilot who does daredevil stunts, saving the day from air pirates. With spectacular animation and detail, this movie is a thrill to watch.

This film has an interesting history. Aside from becoming popular during its time, it also spawned competition from *Nippon Airlines* to release an anime similar in theme. The battle for the skies even hit cinemas. It was a great summer in Japan that time.

You may also selectively view ***Mononoke Hime (Princess Mononoke)*** if your audience is on the teen to adult level (largely due to some violent scenes, not Christmas-y at all). There was a rumor that Miyazaki was going to retire after this award-winning masterpiece, but he is far from doing that. Studio Ghibli's latest work, ***Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi)*** has been receiving rave reviews. Check out more information about this movie which Disney is releasing in the US as well at *http://bventertainment.go.com/movies/spiritedaway/*.

This Christmas, give your family and friends the gift of Miyazaki's mastery of story-telling. And it will be an event remembered year after year.

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The Ring of Time

The World of Leiji Matsum

by Igor Cabbab

You may find it quite discordant to find something like this discourse under a column bearing the word "continuum". The anime and manga world of **Leiji Matsumoto** is anything but a continuum with its confusing timelines, contradicting continuities and look-alike / alternate versions of characters. But the creator himself has an explanation for all this: each story is merely a different perspective / view of events in his universe. Despite all these, his world has produced anime icons like Captain Harlock, Emeraldas, Maetel and *Uchu Senkan Yamato* (Space Battleship Yamato / Star Blazers).

Limitless Space

What ties all his stories together? Is it because all the heroes are deep, silent, strong and stoic? Is it the fact that they all sail the grim, harsh and yet beautifully majestic seas of space? Or is it because they all travel using spaceships which are inspired by Spanish galleons, warships, airships or steam locomotives? Or is it because they all carry warrior guns like the Cosmo Dragoon?

This is a Man...

Captain Harlock, captain of the battleship Arcadia. His name resounds throughout the cosmos. Eye-patch, facial scar, skull and crossbones banner. He sails through the black sea of space living under the motto: "Under my flag, I live free." Loyal friend of Tochiro Oyama. Fights for freedom with the universe as his stage. He is the most feared pirate in all of space.

This is a Woman...

Emeraldas, captain of the battleship Queen Emeraldas. A free trader, a corsair, a pirate. Facial scar, skull and crossbones banner. Considered by many as Harlock's equal, and his friend, nothing more. Her only love is Harlock's friend and master engineer Tochiro Oyama, with whom she has a daughter named Mayu. She is a lonely and tragic figure destined to wander eternally though space.

This is a Daughter and a Sister...

Maetel, twin sister of Emeraldas. When they were younger, the twins were sent forth into space by their mother who was slowly turning into a

mechanized tyrant. Emeraldas was sent to fight, Maetel to love. Maetel wanders space through all eternity, making stops on different planets, on the Galaxy Express 999.

This is a Friend...

Tochiro Oyama, loyal friend of Harlock. Short, stubby and bespectacled engineering genius. Loved Emeraldas, loved by Emeraldas. Father of Mayu. Maker of the Cosmo Dragoons and the Arcadia. He died on the planet Heavy Melder.

This is a Son...

Tetsuro Hoshino, on a quest. A hunting party of mechanized noblemen shot and killed his mother. Swearing vengeance, he is lent a gun, which can kill machine people, by the mysterious Maetel. After accomplishing his revenge, he is given a rail pass on the Galaxy Express 999 by Maetel so that he can reach the Andromeda galaxy. There, he can have his wish of having a mechanized body and live forever. Along the way, he sees that a mechanized body is not the best solution. He inherited a Cosmo Dragoon and Tochiro's hat and cape from Tochiro's mother.

This is a Gun...

Cosmo Dragoon, the most destructive dimensional reaction gun in the universe, a "warrior's gun". A dragoon refers to a gun or more specifically, a musket used in the 1500s before rifles became vogue. Samuel Colt made the "1848 Dragoon Pistol" which became very popular during the American Civil War. Supposedly, Tochiro took this model and converted it into the Cosmo Version. It is said that the Cosmo Dragoon is the gun that "only true space warriors are able to own and use". It is said to be the only gun powerful enough to kill machine people. Tochiro supposedly made only four or five of these powerful guns, each bearing an individual serial number and a skull and crossbones insignia in the handle, and those who have wielded one include Harlock, Emeraldas, Tetsuro, Maetel, Tochiro, Hiroshi Umino, Doctor Daiba and his son Tadashi Daiba.

These are Spaceships...

Harlock once stood at the helm of a Solar Federation warship, the "Deathshadow", during the Earth's war with the Illumidas. Harlock was

could reverse the contamination and save all humanity.

These are people (and other beings)...

Besides the aforementioned, others (and their various incarnations) comprise the core cast of Matsumoto's universe. There's La Mime, a cyborg without a mouth. A tall, pale woman named Meeme, the last of a race and Harlock's constant companion. Doctor Daiba, Harlock's old friend. Tadashi Daiba, Doctor Daiba's son who matures after several experiences on the side of Harlock. Beautiful Maya, the Radio Voice of Free Arcadia, Harlock's love. Harlock loses his eye trying to reach her. She dies in Harlock's arms.

This is a Mirror...

Harlock and friends have various incarnations and versions throughout the years (which adds to both the mystique and the confusion). The main characters were influenced by real people. Harlock was a tall, good-looking friend of Matsumoto while Matsumoto himself was the pattern for Tochiro.

Harlock has evolved from WWII pilot (Phantom F Harlock), western gunslinger (***Gun Frontier***'s Franklin Harlock Jr), English buccaneer (Captain Kingston) and even a villain (***Speed of Light Esper***'s Doctor Harlock).

One popular incarnation of the famed pirate was in the manga version of Yamato where Harlock is supposedly the long lost brother of Derek Wildstar (Kodai), one of Yamato's main characters. Alex (Mamoru) Wildstar's ship was destroyed and he was presumed dead. He gave himself a makeover as... Captain Harlock.

Harlock and Tochiro trace their friendship to that of their ancestors' friendship. Early 20th century German aviator Phantom F Harlock was the friend of Japanese Tochiro.

It is also said that Tetsuro is an incarnation of Tochiro and that La Mime is an incarnation of Meeme.

The Leiji Matsumoto anime and manga universe. Confusing timelines, contradicting continuities and look-alike / alternate versions of characters. Anime icons.

forced to surrender, which he did, by crash-landing the ship so that it would be too damaged for the Illumidas to bother fixing it up. Refusing a position offered by the Illumidas, Harlock struck up a friendship with Tochiro. Together, they vowed to live in freedom. The Deathshadow would later make an appearance against Harlock's new ship, the Arcadia, and also in later adventures of the Yamato.

With the destruction of the Deathshadow, Harlock continued his adventures through space via the Arcadia, built by Tochiro. When this spaceship began to show signs of wear and tear, Tochiro made a newer one. Tochiro was shot and buried on the planet Heavy Meldar where he built the new Arcadia. Ever heard the saying about how *maestros* endow their *pièces de résistance* with their souls? That is what Tochiro did, his soul is part of the new Arcadia. The Arcadia, part pirate ship with deck cannons, part fantasy machine, with a crew complement of about 40, not just a battleship but also a home. It is Tochiro's legacy to Harlock, the most powerful battleship known to humanity.

The Queen Emeraldas belongs to Emeraldas. It bears a masthead of a goddess holding a skull in her hand. It looks like an airship and its creator / manufacturer is unknown. Sporting engines of almost unimaginable power, she relied on Tochiro for maintenance and repair of all its major systems.

The Galaxy Express 999 (or three-9) is a spaceship which looks like a steam locomotive. Its engine car contains a sentient computer and it doesn't need anyone to actually operate it. Maetel, Tetsuro and the conductor are always its main passengers.

The Yamato was a real Japanese battleship during World War II. It was called the "Ultimate Warship" but... it sunk rather quickly after it was launched from the harbor. It was retrofitted with alien technology via the powerful Wave Motion gun and Wave Motion Engine and became Earth's only hope. Radiation from alien Gamilon bombing has threatened all life on Earth. The Yamato and its crew must make the long and treacherous trip across the galaxy to the planet Iscandar and bring back the Cosmo-DNA, the only thing which

The Leiji Matsumoto Anime Universe

Adieu Galaxy Express 999 (movie, 1981)
Arcadia of My Youth (movie, 1982)
Be Forever Yamato (Movie)
Cosmo Warrior Zero (TV, 2001, 13 episodes)
DoaSight 999.9 (OAV, 1998)
Endless Road SSX (TV, 1982-83, 22 episodes)
Farewell to Yamato: In the Name of Love (Movie, 1978)
Final Yamato (Movie, 1983)
Galaxy Express 999 (Movie, 1979)
Galaxy Express 999: Eternal Fantasy (1998)
Gun Frontier (TV, 2002, 13 episodes)
Harlock Saga - Nibelung's Ring (OAV, 2000)
Hunt for Young Harlock:
Cosmo Warrior Zero Extra (2002)
Maetel Legend (OAV, 2000)
Queen Emeraldas (OAV, 1998)
Queen Millenia (TV, 1981)
Space Cruiser Yamato (Movie, 1977)
Space Cruiser Yamato (TV, 1974)
Space Cruiser Yamato 2 (TV, 1978)
Space Cruiser Yamato II (Special)
Yamato Eternal (TV, 1979)
Space Cruiser Yamato III (Special) (TV, 1983)
Space Cruiser Yamato III (TV, 1980)
Space Cruiser Yamato, The New Voyage (TV, 1979)
Space Pirate Captain Harlock (TV, 1978-79, 42 episodes)
Space Pirate Captain Harlock –Endless Odyssey– (remake 2002)
Yamato 2520 (OAV, 1994-96)

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Leiji Matsumoto Official Site *http://www.leiji-matsumoto.ne.jp/*
The Captain Harlock FAQ! *http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Temple/9639/mytag.htm*
Space battleship YAMATO (STAR BLAZERS) Secret Base *http://homepage1.nifty.com/YAMATO/yamato-e.html*
The Page of Black Knight Faust *http://www.potato.ne.jp/~faust/999index_E.html*
Rei's Anime and MANGA *http://www.mf.edu:8001/people/rei/Anime.html*
Nik Guerra. **The Dark Universe of Harlock** *http://www.floylong.net/~harlock/Harlock_Index_eng_html.html*
The Queen Emeraldas Page *http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Ginza/7262/qm.html*

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Christmas in Japan

by Takako Takimoto

From a religious point of view, should the Japanese people celebrate the birthday of Buddha instead and not of Jesus? But the surprising fact is that most of us don't do that.

Every time it gets close to the Christmas holidays, people here ask me this: "Do you celebrate Christmas in Japan?" Of course, we also do celebrate Christmas. But I'm not sure whether the word "celebrate" would be the right term for it.

Since most of us Japanese are not Christians, who comprise only 3% of the whole population, we just have plain old fun on Christmas day, it having no religious significance at all. Of course, it's not a holiday wherein we don't have to report for work. In short, it is a working and school day.

However, when I saw the child Jesus with Mary and Joseph and some shepherds and animals in the so-called *belen*, which I don't see in Japan, it made me realize about the real religious and cultural meaning of Christmas among Christians. I wonder how many Japanese know about it and think of its real significance.

From a religious point of view, should the Japanese people celebrate the birthday of Buddha instead and not of Jesus? But the surprising fact is that most of us don't do that. Instead, only a very few people know Buddha's birthday. It's simply like this, we just enjoy Christmas as a pleasurable event. In fact, it is not traditional for us to do something special on Christmas. The atmosphere of celebration in its commercial sense was introduced only during the height of the economic growth about 40 years ago. Since then, Christmas has been promoted for commercial purposes. At the start of November, we then begin to see Christmas decorations and trees, hear Christmas carols almost everywhere, particularly in shopping malls, radios and TV, and even read about it in magazines.

Nowadays, Christmas is the day which children look forward to for presents and gatherings. As you know, many Japanese are workaholics and so this day tends to be the only chance for them to go home early and spend time with their family.

When I was small, I was quite excited about Christmas although I still had to go to school. At that time, I still believed so much in Santa Claus. At the end of November, I used to wish aloud what gift I

Basically, Christmas is a romantic event for the Japanese. As you can see in anime, particularly in shojo manga, girls would wish to spend Christmas Eve with their crush or boyfriend.

want on Christmas by looking up to the sky. And I was trying to be a good girl since I had been told by my parents that if I behave well, Santa Claus would come to me. However, when I was 8-years-old (which I can't forget till now), I was too excited to sleep on Christmas Eve. I was just pretending to sleep while actually waiting for Santa. But suddenly, my mother entered my room and put a present beside me. I was so shocked. Though some of my friends were saying that there is actually no Santa Claus, I didn't want to take their word for it. But even after seeing my Mom that night, for several days, I still continued expecting for Santa, wearing his red suit, to come and give his gift to me. However, I finally realized that there was no Santa at all. Since then, I got my Christmas presents directly handed to me by my parents.

One more thing which I look forward to during this season is the Christmas cake. Until now, I still long to eat a Christmas cake. One time, I was asked by a Filipino friend about the difference between an ordinary cake and a Christmas cake. Actually, they are almost the same except that there is a sugar Santa Claus and strawberries on top of the cake. When I was in elementary school, we were served Christmas cake during *kyushoku* (school lunch). The serving of this cake happens only once a year so it was very precious for us. And during those times, we can buy one whole cake only during our birthday and on Christmas day. Maybe that's the reason why it's memorable for us.

On the other hand, Christmas for young people is seen more as a time to spend romantic Christmas dates with those special to them. It's like Valentine's day here in the Philippines. If one has no date on Christmas Eve, he / she would be quite lonely, commonly called a "Single Bell". This practice started about 10 years ago during the bubble economy. A typical date was promoted by media to encourage couples to take dinner in a good restaurant and thereafter, spend the night together in nice hotels (just imagine most hotels being full during Valentine's day in Makati).

But these days, it's changing. After the bubble economy burst, people settled for reasonable but romantic places. That's why before Christmas, people are busy looking for a date, and planning a romantic one. There was even an incident about one magazine featuring a church located in the center of Tokyo. This church, famous for a wedding place for actors and actresses, was known for celebrating a candle service on Christmas Eve. Known for this night service, many couples would join the service simply to experience it, despite the fact that they are not Christians. My Christian friend complained about that. Due to the numerous people attending, she had to wait for two hours to be able to enter the church for the service. Actually it was being attended

by many simply because it is the best place for couples to have a romantic and reasonable date on Christmas Eve!

How about Christmas for me? I prefer to have a party with friends at my house. (Yes, that is an excuse. I admit I didn't have a date then...) During that time, it was really cold, so we had a *nabe* party, wherein one can put whatever one wants in a boiling pot, like vegetables, seafood or meat. Karaoke singing follows, and of course, we eat Christmas cake for dessert. Without the cake, it wouldn't be complete.

Basically, Christmas is a romantic event for the Japanese. As you can see in anime, particularly in *shojo* manga, girls would wish to spend Christmas Eve with their crush or boyfriend.

Christmas in Japan is a commercial event rather than a religious celebration. In the beginning, we simply followed Christmas the way media presented it, but now the movement is towards a tendency for people to get more interested in the real meaning of Christmas. For this reason, we are trying to find our own way of celebrating it profoundly. We are the kind of people who like events from Western countries, for the simple reason of just having fun. But after several years, we are getting to know its meaning and are starting to discover new things and insights through the event.

Actually, for us it became an inverted process that I think is okay. We can be interested first in another culture through the fun it brings and later on, see their reason and meaning. Santa was promoted by media and toy companies while Christmas cake, a product of bakeries for greater profit. They were done as commercial strategies but certainly did not remain that way. Now, because of them, Christmas has become part of Japan and would still be in the future. Like you guys, you like anime for fun, but after that, you may have had the interest of knowing more about Japanese culture and language. We are happy about that for we know that we shall move forward to know more and grow more through anime.

Pictures of christmas cakes from **Matsusaka Christmas Cakes.** *http://www.mctv.ne.jp/community/gourmet/cake/*

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Kiyoku Tadashii Kurisumasu

(Clear Right Christmas)

Performed by Ranma 1/2 DoCo Singers

(Shampoo, Ranma, Akane, Nabiki, Kasumi)

Santa wo shinjite ita kodomo de sugosu ivu wa
Papa to mama no ai ni mo kizukanaide
Hashaida purezento

Tomodachi ni kikasareta Are wa papa no itazura
Yume ga hitotsu kiete wa otona ni naru
Tameiki Kurisumasu

Nee Kon'ya anata wa donna suteki na yume de
Bara-iro no mirai ni sasotte kureru no?

Yuki no you ni sunao na
Yogore no nai watashi wo
Misetaku naru anata no mae de wa

Utagau koto shiranai
Osanai hi no watashi ni
Modoresou na sonna hito da kara
Believe you

Jitensha wo oshi-nagara anata no ie tazuneta
Papa to mama no naisho no ivu no yoru wa
Hajimete na no

Teami no mafuraa wo fukuro kara toridashite
O-heya de kubi wo maki Egao no o-kaeshi

Yasashii kara suki na no
Itsu mo soba ni itai no
Anata no kiru pajama ni naritai

Mado no soto wa konayuki
Kata yosetai mite 'tara
Jibun no koto tadashiku omoete
Ureshii

Yuki no you ni sunao na
Yogore no nai watashi wo
Misetaku naru anata no mae de wa

Kyarakutaazu Kurisumasu

(Characters' Christmas)

Performed by Ranma-Teki Kageki-Bu Go-Ikkou-Sama

[Ryouga] Ibu ni maneita taisetsu na hito
[Shampoo] Mou sugu mabuta tojiru yo
[Kasumi] Yume no naka tte atatakai ne to
[Kunou] Konayuki sotto haratte

****[Ranma] Kimi ni Merry Christmas
****Purezento kakaete
****[Ranma] Atsumatte 'ru boku-tachi
****[Nabiki] Kimi ni Merry Christmas
****Santa ni mo makenai
****[Mousse] Mabushii egao
****Todoke Dreamin' Night

[Ukyou] Toshi ni ichido no nigiyaka na yume
[Azusa] Otona ni naru made mireru yo
[Genma] Mizu wo kabutta [Cologne] kimi wa tonakai
[Soun] Panda no sori to kyousou

****Kimi ni Merry Christmas
****Kyandoru wo tomoseba
****[Kodachi] Yume ga hitotsu fueru yo
****Kimi ni Merry Christmas
****Kutsushita no nakami wa
****[Happousai] Afureru ai sa
****Todoke Holy Night...

[Akane & The Jusenkyou Five] Momi no ki to se kurabe
Ryuusei no mejaa de hakarou

****kurikaeshi
****kurikaeshi

[Ranma] Merry Christmas for You

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Arc the Lad, and then some

by Dong Alejar

Once more, a videogame has spawned an anime! This time, it's ***Arc the Lad***'s turn to star in animation.

This Playstation Role Playing Game is not the most popular but it still has a cult following with its cute super deformed characters (up to ***Arc the Lad 2***) and intuitive strategy-based battles. Arc the Lad is one very solid RPG from *Working Designs*, makers of the more popular ***Lunar*** Series.

The anime is quite true to the story of the game this time, unlike other RPGs turned anime (***Final Fantasy***, hint hint) and definitely captures the look and feel of the game. But we're not going to talk about the anime, we're going to review the ***Arc the Lad Collection*** for the aging Playstation console. In Arc the Lad Collection, you will get to play not just one but the entire three games of the series! The whole kit and kaboodle is in tow here in this collection so hold on to your hats kiddies, this will be one long adventure.

The Collection comprises six disks but the actual game uses only four. The two extra disks are bonuses which include the making of the game and a monster battle add on for Arc the Lad 2. Even though it's a trilogy, you need not play them according to numerical order. But of course, there are advantages to playing them from one to three. One is you can retain certain characters and their skills and attributes and use them on the following disk. Another is the sequence of events in the story. Arc 3 is a continuation of Arc 2. Arc the Lad 1 is a true prequel but has a different protagonist or hero if you prefer. Each part of the series as stand alone's are quite pedestrian but put them together and you have a game that rivals even the Final Fantasy series.

Story

Here is the gist of the story for each game in the Collection. Arc 1 introduces us to our hero, Arc the Lad. The game sort of imitates the plot of the ***Legend of Zelda*** wherein Arc sets off to gather elemental spheres in order for him to imprison a malevolent being known as the Dark One. The first of the series is quite short and will only take a little more than an hour to finish (that is short for an RPG).

Arc the Lad 2 is actually the best of the bunch with a seedy underbelly feel to it, a tinge of gang-

Each part of the series as stand alones are quite pedestrian but put them together and you have a game that rivals even the Final Fantasy series.

ster movie. Arc 2 typifies what a good RPG is all about: long quests, side missions and a story that slowly unfolds as you progress to give you just that much incentive to move ahead. It's a true jewel of Role Playing Game design. Arc the Lad 2's main hero's name is Elc, a fire caster and bounty hunter. There's a mystery to Elc's past which involves the assassination of his family for a certain artifact called the Fire Guardian. Elc can harness the Fire Guardians' power that is why he was spared and consequently set free in order to fulfill an evil design by those who perpetrated the murders. The murderers belong to the Silver Noah group and believed to be followers of the Dark One. He is joined by others in his quest to exact revenge on those who killed his family.

Arc the Lad 3 is a continuation of 2 which takes place just a couple of years after. This time, the hero's name is Alec. He is a young man who wants to become a hero like the man who saved his life during an event called the Great Disaster. Like Elc before him, Alec remembers little of his childhood. He then enlists to become a hunter, like the man who saved his life, and this is where he encounters the evil force that plans to enslave the world using unheard of technology.

Graphics

The graphics are 2d similar to the Lunar series except for Arc the Lad 3 which is in 3d. The graphics are quite colorful and has a certain appeal to it, sort of like reading a comic book. Same goes with the dialogue. It is very comic book-like in the sense that voice balloons appear on top of the heads of the speaking character and not the usual bottom of the screen dialogue box in most other RPGs. There are numerous cut scenes that add to the atmosphere of the game and which truly helps in immersing the player into the world of Arc the Lad.

Gameplay

The battle system feels a bit awkward at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's great! Battles are fought like a hybrid strategy game. Sort of like a cross between other strategy games like ***Front Mission***, ***Vandal Hearts*** or ***Final Fantasy Tactics*** with a dash of ***Phantasy Star Online*** and ***Grandia*** in the mix as well.

One very interesting aspect of the gameplay is the part wherein you as a Hunter must accept bounties very much like that of Phantasy Star Online. These side quests are fun to accomplish and help your character accrue that much needed experience and strength.

Overall

Overall, this is a great game from Working Designs and will make a worthy addition to anyone's videogame library. Great Sound, Great Battle System, Almost Great Story and loveable characters make for an RPG collection that is worth recommending to RPG newbies or veterans alike.

Published By Working Designs

Arc the Lad © 1999 Sony Computer Entertainment
Arc the Lad © SPE Visual, Bee Train / WOWOW

by Dong Alejar

Hit You Like a Hurricane

Opening Salvo

The story starts out with a motley group of hoodlums dressed as sharks trying to break through a giant reinforced steel door with their drilling machine. Inside the steel door is an old man and a pretty young scientist who, contrary to appearances, are actually praying against the breakdown of their barricade. The two are trying to protect their research, called the "Polymar Project", from the shark men who plan to use the Polymar for their sinister plan to take over the world.

The Polymar is a helmet which has the ability to enhance the physical cabilities of the wearer by stimulating various aspects of the brain such as adrenaline secretion as well as other chemical reactions that enable the human body to achieve great strength and speed. The helmet also creates a suit that is impregnable and is capable of morphing into different shapes.

As the shark men break through, everything seems lost... until from nowhere, the young lady scientist appears donning a Polymar helmet and then proceeds to pummel the hapless shark men with her kicks and karate chops. Even the giant drill is no match for her as she busts the machine with a drop kick from way above. Just when you think she has saved the day, another shark man appears from behind wearing what seems to be a Polymar helmet as well. He surprises the scientist and thus gains an insurmountable upperhand in the battle. He practically breaks every bone in her body and finishes her off while her limp, half naked lifeless body hangs from the ceiling. He then kills the other scientist and then proceeds to destroy the laboratory. This is how the anime starts and I always love it when the director of the anime really sets the tone by starting out with some action and gory scenes.

The good, the bad and the ugly

Hurricane Polymar's protagonist is a young man named Takeshi who is working for a private detective named Kuruma. Kuruma is the typical old fart who is so full of hot air his mind is in the high heavens. Skinny, old and ugly, this joke of a detective provides the comic relief in the series. Takeshi, on the other hand, has Eugene of ***Ghost Fighter***-type good looks. He is somewhat of a rebel because he has moved out of his

family's house, disapproving of the way they handle the criminal underbelly of society. His father and brother are very influential people in government, by the way.

So Takeshi and Kuruma go about solving petty crimes just to pay the rent when one day, Takeshi receives a gift from a former genius classmate named Ryoko (the young scientist that perished). The gift is a helmet which he presumes to be an ordinary motorcycle helmet. He checks on his classmate only to find out that she was killed by the dreaded shark men called Cat Sharks. He then confronts his father and brother about the killings and demands that something be done about it. He is once again shunned by them and leaves frustrated and angry for vindication. Takeshi then convinces Kuruma to go with him and solve the case by themselves. Kuruma, who is desperate to get media attention, agrees to help Takeshi. While investigating a laboratory, they accidentally meet up with the Cat Sharks. It's a good thing Takeshi brought his Polymar helmet because it inadvertently was activated and here is where the fun begins. Takeshi turns into Hurricane Polymar and with swift savagery, he exacts his vengeful hatred on the Cat Sharks.

Anime action at its finest

The action sequences are a beauty to behold. Running at a high frame rate, the action is smooth and the fighting choreography, marvelous.

The Cat Sharks attack at once which is how a real gang-up should be. But because of his enhanced abilities, Takeshi makes minced meat of the Cat Sharks. But once again, from the rear, comes the Shark man with a Polymar helmet. He takes on our hero thinking that he will have just as easy a time as with the lady scientist. Little does he know that the Polymar enhances the existing abilities of the wearer. Takeshi is a champion martial artist so hence, he is much more capable of defending himself than the young lady scientist.

As if knowing that the Shark man was the one who killed his classmate, Takeshi brutally beats up the leader of the Cat Sharks much to the surprise and chagrin of his gang. The Cat Sharks retreat and Hurricane Polymar becomes the headline of every newspaper.

The action sequences are a beauty to behold. Running at a high frame rate, the action is smooth and the fighting choreography, marvelous.

I don't want to give away too much of the story so I'll just tell you that there are a lot more action sequences that comes after that. The story is tried and tested and interesting. You know, crazy and powerful man with twisted dreams of creating a new and better world by destroying the existing one who comes up against a simple, ordinary underachiever youth who trips upon the conspiracy and thus goes about trying to foil the evil plan. This anime is definitely not for kids because of the violence and nudity. The look and feel of the anime is like a much-improved version of that older anime ***G-force***.

I am such a sucker for a great action anime, especially if it is well executed. Smooth animation and great art really seals the deal for me. So if you're like me, rent this two-part OAV coz it won't disappoint.

Credits:
The supervising director is **Hisayuki Toriumi**.
Produced by *Tatsunoko Production*.

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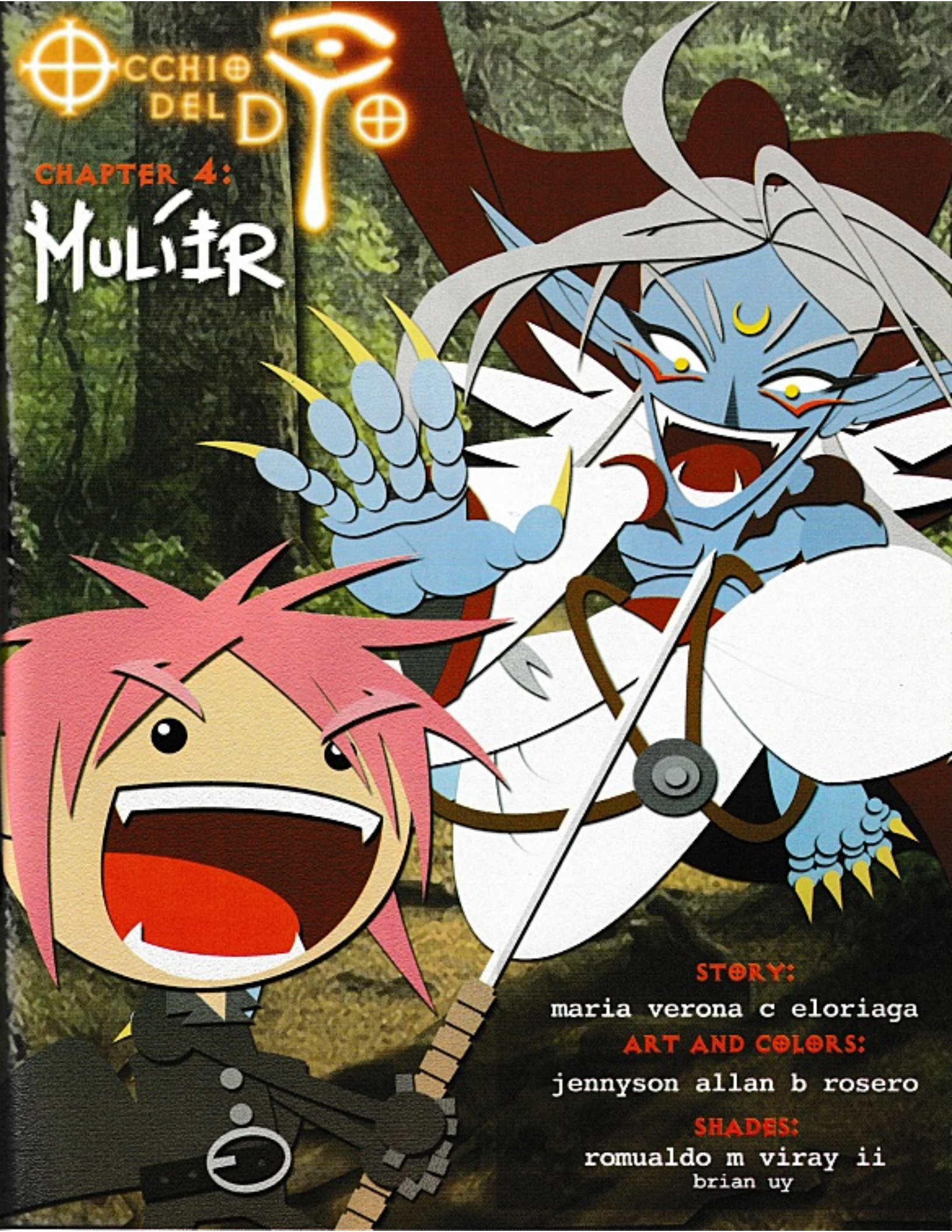

OCCHIO DEL DIO
CHAPTER 4:
MULÍR
STORY:
maria verona c eloriaga
ART AND COLORS:
jennyson allan b rosero
SHADES:
romualdo m viray ii
brian uy

O, SAAN NA NAMAN KAYO PUPUNTA? TAY NAMAN, KUNG SAAN-SAAN NIYO KINAKALADKAD SI CHARLIE. KAHIT GABI UMÁALIS KAYO. PAANO NA KUNG BUMABA ANG GRADES NIYAN?
ANAK, DI MO MAIINTINDIHAN. ITO ANG NAKALAAN SA KANYANG TADHANA. SHE CANT ESCAPE IT AND WE CANT PROTECT HER FROM IT, EITHER.
ITAY TALAGA, KAHIT KAILAN! KUNG ANU-ANO ANG IPINAPASOK NIYO DYAN SA UTAK NI CHARLIE. NUNG BATA PA YAN, NAGING MATATAKUTIN YAN DAHIL SA MGA KUWENTO NIYO!
I WAS JUST PREPARING HER FOR THE INEVITABLE. YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS. MAHABA MAN ANG PRUSISYON, SA SIMBAHAN PA RIN ANG TULOY NG ANAK MO. 'TSAKA WAG KANG MAG ALALA, NANDYAN SI MICHAEL PARA PROTEKTAHAN SIYA.
SAAN BA SUMULPOT YANG MICHAEL NA YAN? KILALA NIYO BA ANG UGALI NIYAN?

MANILA, 1952

YOU WENT TO SEE THAT GIRL AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU? YOU DO REALIZE, MY FRIEND, THAT WE HAVE OUR VOWS.

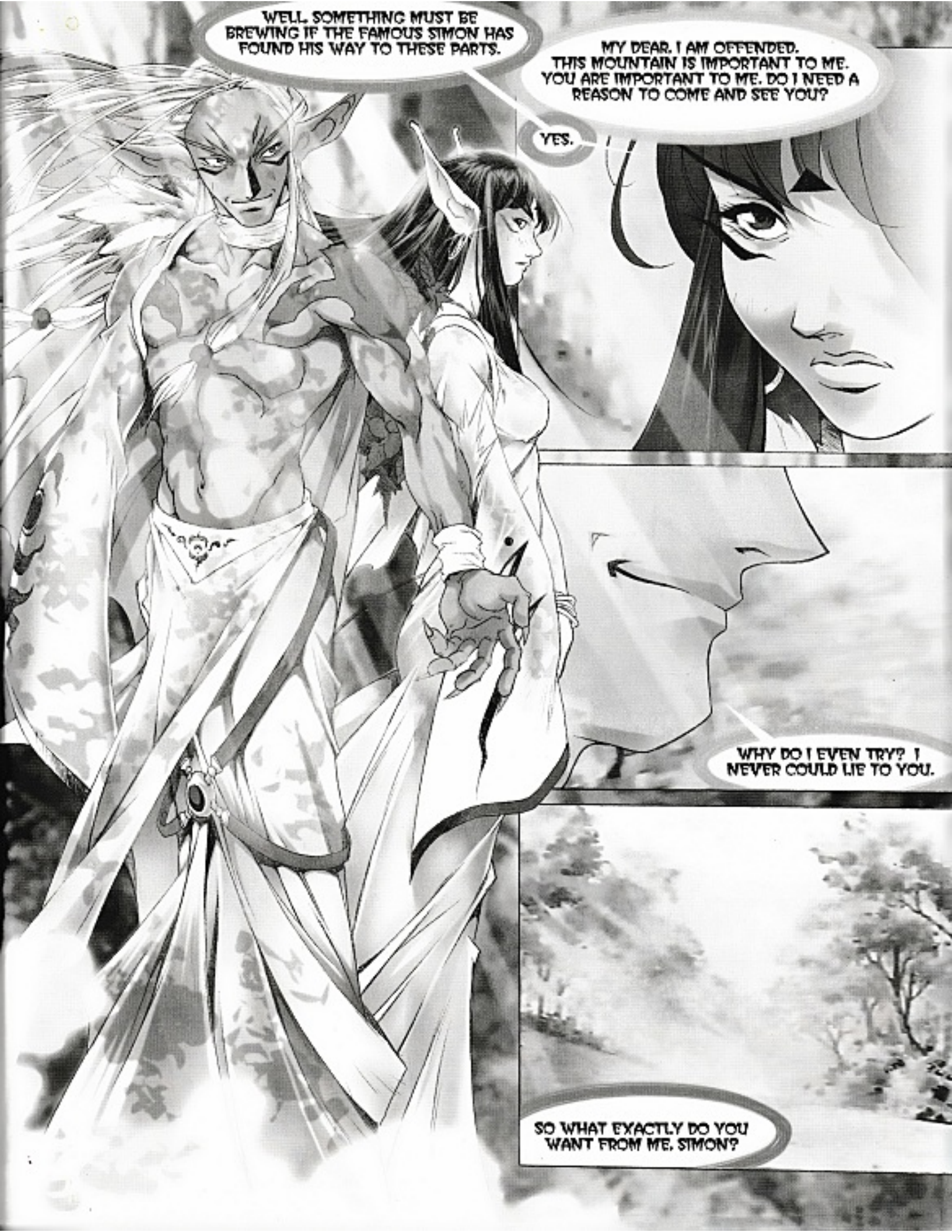
AH, BUT WE HAVENT TAKEN VOWS YET. BESIDES, I CANT HELP IT. SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IVE EVER SEEN!
O, ARTEMIO. MAY PUPUNTAHAN KA?
IT SEEMS THAT I AM BEING TRANSFERRED TO THAT PRIORY IN ENGLAND.

THAT PRIORY, I SEE. MORE OF THAT SECRET SOCIETY OF HOLY KNIGHTS BUSINESS?
YES. BUSINESS THAT SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET.
I KNOW. I KNOW. IF THEY ARE RECRUITING YOUNG BLOOD LIKE YOU, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE WAR AGAINST THOSE WATCHAMACALLEMS IS ESCALATING?
THE FALLEN. AND NO, THE WAR AGAINST THEM DOESN'T CEASE.
ASUSI KUNG WALA NAMAN PALANG TAPOS YAN, PARA QUE PA NA NAKIKIPAGLABAN PA TAYO SA KANILA?
MAY PAG-ASA TAYO, THE ONE BORN WITH THE EYE OF GOD.

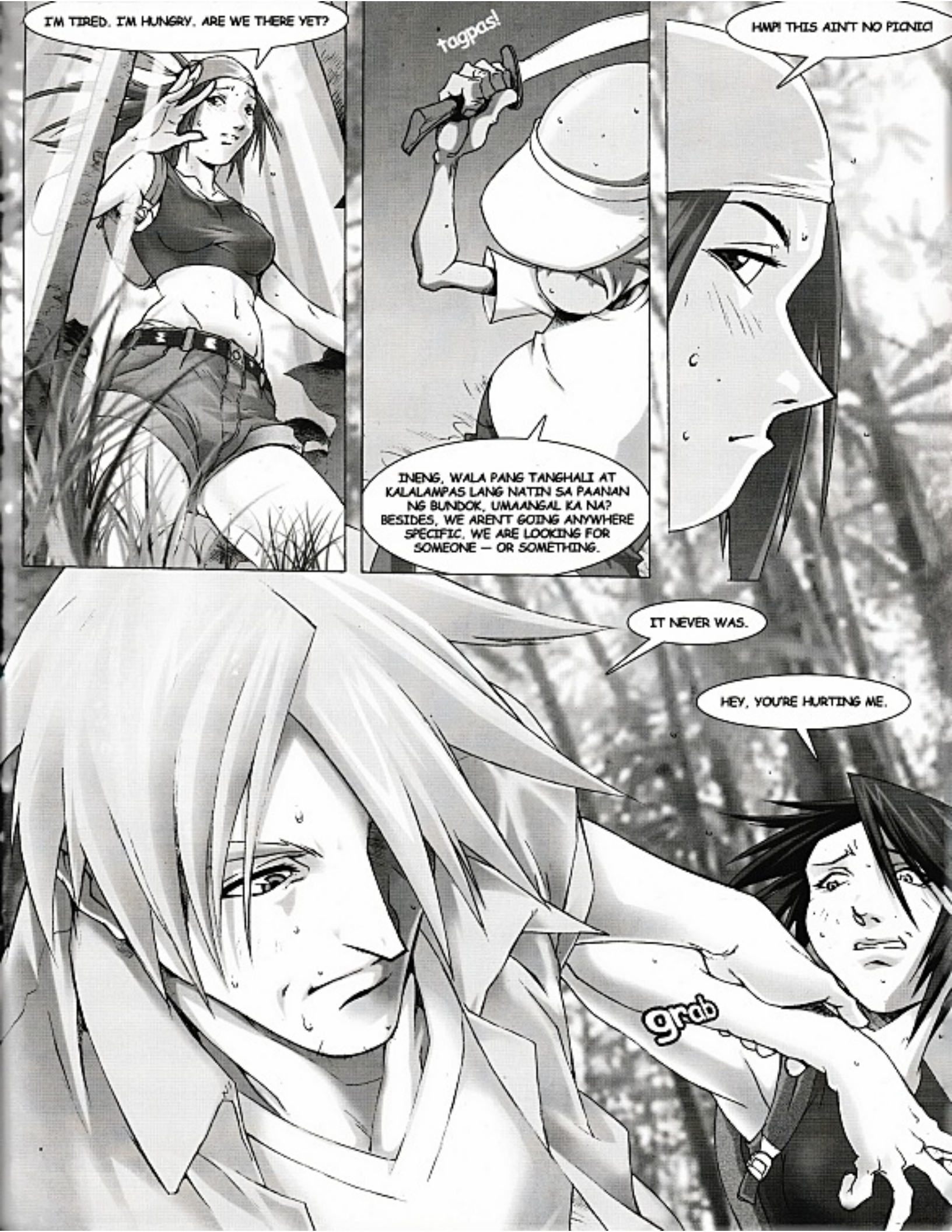
IT IS SAID THAT AFTER CAIN SLEW ABEL, THE SKIES OPENED UP TO REVEAL A GREAT, BIG, ANGRY EYE.
IT TROUBLED HIM CONSIDERABLY. IT WAS A REMINDER THAT HE KNEW WHAT CAIN HAD DONE TO HIS BELOVED ABEL AND THAT HENCEFORTH, HE WAS KEEPING WATCH OVER EVERYTHING CAIN WOULD BE DOING.
CAIN SOUGHT ESCAPE FROM THE EYE BUT IT HOVERED OVER HIM CONSTANTLY. SLEEP WAS NO REFUGE. AS SOON AS HE CLOSED HIS EYES, HE WOULD ENVISION THE ALL-SEEING EYE IN HIS DREAMS.
EVEN IF HE DUG A HOLE IN THE EARTH AND COVERED HIMSELF UP, THE EYE WOULD APPEAR SUDDENLY IN THE DARKNESS BEFORE HIM.
THAT, MY FRIEND, IS THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF GOD. EVIL CAN NOT ESCAPE FROM ITS CONSTANT VIGILANCE. LEGEND FURTHER STATES THAT SOMEONE IS DESTINED TO BE BORN WITH IT. THIS PERSON IS OUR SECRET WEAPON, THE ONE WHO WILL TURN THE TIDE AGAINST EVIL.

THE HE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC
HUY, DYASKENG INGAY NITO! HINDI ITO FIELD TRIP!
AND EXACTLY WHY ARE WE HERE?
BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT SIMON IS MAKING HIS MOVE. IN WHICH CASE, HE'D BE GUNNING FOR A POWER SPOT LIKE THIS SACRED MOUNTAIN.
HMM, YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS SIMON FELLA. WOULD YOU LIKE TO FILL US IN?
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT. WE HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER.
BANZAI!
AY, BANZAI! DYUSKO, FALLEN NA KULUBOTI JOMBAGIN MO NA SYA, MIKEY!
UHM, JOEY... TAO YAN.

HUWAAAATTT? WITH A FEZ LIKE THAT?
SURRENDAH, GAIJIN! NIHON WA ICHIBAN!
EHRM... SIR, THE WAR ENDED A LONG TIME AGO.
I DON'T BEREEVE!
BUT IT'S TRUE. YOU GUYS SURRENDERED.
SURRENDAH? EMPERAH NEVAH SURENDAH! YOU, YOU AMERICAN PUHROPAGANDA! YOU NOT MAKE ME SURRENDAH!
Kwrrsssshi
Kwrrsssshi
Kwrrsssshi


WELL, SOMETHING MUST BE BREWING IF THE FAMOUS SIMON HAS FOUND HIS WAY TO THESE PARTS.
MY DEAR, I AM OFFENDED. THIS MOUNTAIN IS IMPORTANT TO ME. YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO ME. DO I NEED A REASON TO COME AND SEE YOU?
YES.
WHY DO I EVEN TRY? I NEVER COULD LIE TO YOU.
SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT FROM ME, SIMON?

WOMAN, I LOVE IT WHEN YOU'RE ASSERTIVE.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME OR NOT?
THERE IT IS AGAIN, YUM! WELL, IF YOU INSIST... SOME VISITORS MAY PAY YOU A VISIT SOON. MAKILI BEING SACRED AND ALL.
THE TEMPLARS ARE FINALLY ON TO YOU? "SOON" IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, SIMON. I FEEL HIS PRESENCE AT THIS MOMENT.
INTERESTING. BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO REVEAL MYSELF TO HIM.
AND WHY SHOULD I DO ALL THAT FOR YOU?
WHY SIMON, I HAVE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO BE SHY.
YOU VERY WELL KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO BETRAY ME.
THERE IS A PROPER PLACE AND TIME FOR EVERYTHING, MY DEAR. THIS ISN'T MINE. I WANT THEM TO REVEAL THEIR HAND, FIRST. THEY HAVE SOMETHING UP THEIR SLEEVE, THEY'RE NOT NORMALLY THIS INTUITIVE. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, MY DEAR. FIND OUT WHAT THEY HAVE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THREATEN ME, SIMON. I PROTECT EVERYTHING UNDER NATURE, BE THEY BLESSED OR FALLEN. EVEN YOU.


I'M TIRED. I'M HUNGRY. ARE WE THERE YET?
tagpas!
INENG, WALA PANG TANGHALI AT KALALAMPAS LANG NATIN SA PAANAN NG BUNDOK, UMAANGAL KA NA? BESIDES, WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE SPECIFIC. WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE — OR SOMETHING.
HMP! THIS AIN'T NO PICNIC!
IT NEVER WAS.
HEY, YOU'RE HURTING ME.
grab

I'M VERY SORRY, CHARLIE. BUT YOUR FRIENDS... THEY REALLY SHOULDN'T BE INVOLVED.

SPEAKING OF... WHY IS IT SO QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHERE ARE THEY?

WE SEEM TO HAVE LEFT THEM BEHIND. LET'S WAIT HERE A WHILE.

THIS IS FRUITLESS. LET'S JUST RETRACE OUR STEPS.

SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY WRONG HERE.

YEAH, IT'S LIKE WE'RE GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES.

SOMETHING HAS ENCHANTED US. TRY TO CONCENTRATE, YOU SHOUL BE ABLE TO SENSE THE SPELL.

THERE!

AMAZING! CAN YOU ALSO SEE A WAY OUT?

NO. BUT I THINK THERE'S... C'MON!
HOW DID YOU? NO MORTAL HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO BREAK MY ENCHANTMENT BEFORE!
WHO ARE YOU?
FWWAAASSSSHIIII
WAIT... THOSE CLOTHES, THAT HAIR... THE STORIES CAN'T BE TRUE... YOU'RE MARIANG MAKILING?
I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY THAT NAME. BUT I HAVE DWELT HERE LONG BEFORE MORTALS CAME TO CALL ME AS SUCH. I AM THE GUARDIAN OF ALL THE CREATURES OF NATURE ON THIS MOUNTAIN.

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT SIMON'S PLANS. SO IF HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN MAKILING, WHICH AREA IS HE TRYING TO SECURE?
DEAR BOY, YOU CAN'T SEE THE ENTIRE PICTURE YET. SIMON HAS ALWAYS BEEN CRAVING FOR VENGEANCE. TO ATTAIN THIS, HE NOT ONLY HAS TO SECURE A POWER SPOT. HE NEEDS TO ACQUIRE AN INSTRUMENT FOR VENGEANCE AS WELL.
AND WHAT MIGHT THIS INSTRUMENT BE?
THEN YOU WOULD KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS PLACE.
HE IS NOT ONE TO TELL ME HIS PLANS. SIMON IS.
YES. I ALSO KNOW WHO YOU ARE, TEMPLAR. AS WELL AS THAT WHOM YOU SEEK. AND THE ANSWER IS NO. NO, SIMON IS NOT HERE NOR DOES HE HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THIS MOUNTAIN.

WHY ARE YOU ENTRUSTING US WITH THIS INFORMATION? ARENT YOU AFRAID OF HIM?
INCURRING HIS IRE. I FEAR NOT. I TAKE NO SIDES IN THIS WAR. I WOULD RATHER THAT NO CREATURE BE HARMED, BE THEY FALLEN OR BLESSED.
SWOOOSSSH!!
O, BAKIT GANYAN NA YUNG AYOS NYO?
NAENGKANTO KAMIT KANINA PA KAMI PAIKOT-IKOT DINE.
SO LOLO SAID THAT WE SHOULD TURN OUR CLOTHES INSIDE-OUT COZ THAT'S HOW YOU BREAK THE CURSE.
HE-HEI I DONT THINK IT WORKED, BRICK.
KE-RRA-AASSH!!!

WELL, MY DEAR, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE, SIMON. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THEY'VE FINALLY FOUND IT. THE EYE OF GOD.
WHAT? THE KNIGHTS HAVE FIGURED OUT HOW TO HARNESS THAT POWER?
MY DEAR SIMON, YOU ARE OH SO UNINFORMED! THAT POWER IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE HARNESSED. THE EYE OF GOD HAS BEEN BESTOWED UPON A GIRL. A MORTAL GIRL, SIMON!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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June Soleil Villanueva

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Karen delos Reyes, 15

Ryan Vincent, 17

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Ma. Flordeliza Jabanes, 14

Lorenze Andrew Buenaventura

Ma. Franciosa Tacles

Roxan Balagtas

Patrick Cruz

Ma. Victoria Perez, 13

We here at ***Questor*** know how to appreciate talent. So get those creative juices flowing and show us your stuff. We encourage every fanboy and fangirl to send in their artwork (originals, don't tr ace over somebody else's drawings!) to **Doujin Drawing Board** c/o Questor Magazine, 206 Quadstar Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Your masterpieces should be no larger than 8 1/2" by 11". You can use pencils, crayons, markers, pen and ink, whatever works for you. As much as possible, try not to fold your artwork. Those folds give us a hard time, you know.

Those who want their works returned to them should send us a self-addressed stamped envelope with their entries. Oh, we can't process any entries sent via email at this time.

The best part is if you're good enough (or lucky enough), WE'RE GONNA GIVE YOU A PRIZE!

Paco Luis G Siscar

Ma. Katrina Perez, 16

Ma. Lourdes Perez, 10

Merry New Year and Happy Christmas, everybody! Jeez, the holidays are here again, next thing you know it's Valentines already, then it will be summer again then its back to school once more. O_o Here's the mail!

Rants

Maybe you can feature nicer anime and maybe you can make ur free vcd to be ***Rayearth*** you know the last episode.

Jenn Lusther Gonzales Mutia

May I request, that you put a VCD of ***Vampire Hunter D*** in your next issue. I hope that you grant my request

Dhampyr

What the hell is going on!!! you said you're going to change. I don't believe it at first, but now you were right you have change... change for the WORST, come on now if you're going to throw in a free CD, *ONEGAI*!!! (PLEASE!!!), put a quality ANIME on the CD. ***LUPIN III***, c'mon now!!! Don't tell me its based on popular demands!

-= Squidd v1.0 =-

*We won't. ^_^*

The prices, the prices dammit!! I couldn't afford the damned november issue!! Dammit!! The prices, people, the prices. Mind you that while you may be living with thousands of pesoses in your pockets, there are still some who live in dorms for six days a week with only a measly five hundred pesos in her pocket. Dammit!!

I understand, I fully understand okay? The freebies and stuff and talent fees for all of you but dammit, I couldn't afford it!! Sighhhhhhhh....

s0phy11

Manga

The new manga, especially ***Dreamwinder***, really blew me away. My only problem was that male protagonist of ***Occhio del Dio*** looked too much like my character Simon (aka Spike) if you put a bandana that he uses to concentrate on his accuracy at firing his Desert Eagle, and the cross around his neck that was given to him by Fr Klement. Oh, well, back to the drawing board for me... Peace out

Gerard "Kelya" Angeles

On a coincidental note, there is also a Simon in ODD.

I would like to say congratulations on your newest manga series: Occhio del Dio and Dreamwinder, for a very successful premiere on your magazine. *Parehong maganda ang istorya at nakaka-relate ang mga* readers *nito lalo na sa ating mga pinoy* anime lovers *dahil pinoy* style *at may kahalong pinoy* culture *ang dalawang series na iyon. Di ba mas maganda na may sarili tayong anime kaysa sa manggaya tayo sa mga* japanese. As others say "Its good to have an original rather than the imitations". Keep it up. ***Questor*** magazine is really the best among the rest. As the commercial says, "*Wala pa ring tatalo sa Questor*".

Radley John Ian Manalo

I just finished reading the October issue Dreamwinder and I must say WHAT THE F*** IS GOING ON. The Girl woke up in a desolated place with monster who cursed the Gods and the next thing you know SHE wants to LEARN the technique that the OLD guy told her after she wakes up. Hey wasn't SHE even scared or shocked that She's in a Remote Place w/ a Guy that looks like a Hentai. C'mon now, WHO the HELL wrote that Script???

Your not so AVID Fan,
-= Squidd v1. 0 =-

*I wrote the script for Dreamwinder based on Aldin's story. Seems you don't read the text that much since you didn't know about that. ^_^*

I LOVE OCCHIO DEL DIO & DREAM WINDER!!! Both of 'em are COOL! <applause! applause! applause!> ^_^ I would like to congratulate Ms Bambi, Jennyson, Aldin & Igor for the wonderful & very cool mangas! New look, new style, new mangas, same (old crazy) staff! Hehehe.. ^_^ just kiddin! Keep it up guys! QUESTOR RULES FOREVER! YEAHHHH!!!!

-Yushuko-

*Hey, I finally got your name right! ^_^*

I read your manga Occhio del Dio and I want to ask where did u get the idea for your latest manga. I think it's somewhat similar to ***DUAL***, but hey maybe its just me.

Gideon2k1

It's just you. ^_^ ODD is a story Bambi has had in her head for some time now and seeing it come to life is a real treat.

i jst read ochio del dio and dreamwindr.i ddnt quite undrstand 8 though but hey, thrs stl mre cmng ryt?ur new manga s kul! wers ***Nopperabo***?

Kazumi27

*Nopperabo is not dead, yet... Hehehehe. ^_^*

Requests

I hope that the next anime quest will be held in Cebu so Cebuano animaniacs could experience this one year special gathering!!!

VACSUN

Please feature ***Yami no Matsuei***. Just asking...hardcore YAOI fan...Domo arigato!

Janelle Año

Great job on the first issue of the magazine. But I wished you'd put the date when the magazine was published so we know when the next issue will come out. Here are also some of my suggestions for the magazine:

1. a music section where we can find the Japanese and English version of the songs.
2. site names where we can find more info on the anime.
3. a fan fiction section where we (the fans) can send in stories about our favorite anime.
4. the viewers POV about an anime
5. more posters!!!

—Zandra Dela Cruz—

Music section? We have animelodies for that one. Site names? We have @nime for that. Fan fiction? Maybe not, the web is already crawling with fanfics. Why not write original ones and make them into manga? That's a start, albeit different from fanfics. Viewers' POV? That's why we have chainmail. It's just that there are some who still can't maintain a non-offensive viewpoint of anime (and other people too, for that matter). We get a lot of POV from fans and non-fans. Usually the non-fans despise one anime so much they can't seem to refrain from blurting out expletives, a no-no for Questor so we can't print them. More posters? Hmmm...

1. If you include a Fanart section, include a fanmanga section too. It would be hilarious.
2. A crossword puzzle.
3. And of course, a discussion table.

CJ del Prado aka: Sushi-sama

Fanmanga? If you send it in, maybe. Crossword puzzle? O_o Discussion table? Maybe you mean forum? Hmmm. We'll see.

1. *Sana bawasan nyo naman ho yung* manga *ninyo kasi nababawasan yung mga* articles.
2. Sana mga bagong anime naman yung i-feature nyo like ***Inu Yasha***, ***Cardcaptor Sakura***, ***Star Ocean Ex***, ***Gravitation***, etc.
3. Sana wala nang vcd ng Lupin III next ish
4. Sana VCD nalang ng sikat na mga movie like ***X***, Inu Yasha, etc.
5. Yun lang po... di na nga ako bibili kasi sayang yung php250 ko (sorry) sa next ish nalang kapag nawala na yung manga at VCD ng Lupin III.

Shikinka

Hi everyone! Here are some suggestions for your mag . . .

A monthly calendar which features anime characters' birth dates (eg. for August, there's Dilandau, Fuuko Kirisawa, etc.)

Sarj

Hmmm, you might just get your wish...

Can u plz. feature ***Vandread The Second Stage***? Coz I'd like to know dis anime better. And can u plz. tell me d cel no. of Jennyson?

Missrkfreak

*Uh, I don't think he wants his cell number broadcast to the whole Philippines. ^_^*

More of Jennyson, et al.

I juz wanna sat that the stuff you do really rocks!!! I'm from Batangas and an avid anime fan I can't attend some of the anime events and that what makes me feel down. Anway I love Jennyson Rosero! Can he be my JS prom date!? Any anime fan feel free to e-mail me at *neko_edge@yahoo.com*

Joan

*Bwahahaha! Jennyson is too old for JS proms! Bwahahaha! ^_^*

Ganbarimasu!!!!!! All hail to Questor staff especially to JENNYSON ROSERO! When my cousin went to the Questor office, she told me that she had seen one of the visual artists that has caught her eyes and this was Mr Rosero. I

sometimes think 'Do he look like my pet? *Kasi* cute *daw siya*. If that's so, well... I like him, so much. *Katunayan* crush *ko siya* together with his .....hands!!!!! *Galing niya kasing mag*-draw. How old is Jennyson??? Kasi 15 *pa lang ako*. Mr Jennyson *hintayin mo ako ha*!!

Cathy Ku

Jz wna cngr2l8 u guys 4 ur gr8 mag,kip it up! request lng pls fea2re ño ulit kenshin. I luv Bambi! and Igor! and Cecil! and Francis! and Nick! I luv Questor!!!

-mei-

More 'Quests

I need Friendz..... Txt me at 09185219594..... tnx...

Curarpikt aka Shai ;)

Hello there! wanna say your d best anime mag in d whole world! congrats *din sa bago ninyong* "comics". Before I forget, I want to have friends, my e-mail add is *cheripaul@yahoo.com*. Thanks a lot!

Cherry Ann de Vera

Can you pls send me pictures of *Flame of Recca* pls. send it to *robatobato0203@kinderstart.com* .

A thumbs up 4 all of u Questor staff!

KAZUMI

2 all Questor staff, may u focus 2 d nxt issue of ur magazine d anime robots & loveteam.pls!

fanter

Why did your magazine price increase? Now it is hard for me to save money just to buy another Questor. Can you please decrease the price

Nicolle Agustin

Is it me, or is the price of the last 2 issues a whopping (in my opinion) P250? I would understand, though, if the price is such due to the fact that you included a VCD. But I hope that after these "special issues", you would revert to the P180 price. For a tight-budgeted person like me, P250 is a steep price. I really hope that the P250 price is temporary.

On a lighter note, I really dig the Nopperabbo girl. Although I think the new comics with a tad of Tagalog feel kinda...ho-hum. It's like watching a Tagalog-dubbed anime. Fun, though.

How about a full poster of Hisoka himself-with his hair down? I don't care what color hair you want him to have, as long as it's down. Compared to the other villains(?!) I know, I like him.

Still a reader (with an aching pocket!)
RHYTHM EMOTION

Ohayo Gozaimasu!!! I really like your mag! 'specially ***gokitomo*** but it has already ended. My sis collected all Questors except the no. 1 issue (***ghost fighter***). I hope you don't mind if I suggest you to make an article about hokage weapons in Flame of Recca and their use and symbols... you know guys we always wait for new manga, and we think that your new manga is great like Gokitomo!!! Pls. post this msg. in chain mail. thanks alot!!!!! QUESTOR RULZ!!!!!!!!!

Jason Chiong

Notice This?

About ***Hunter X Hunter***, I kinda noticed something about the characters and got a very peculiar thought: if Togashi-sensei would show them 8-10 years from now, Killua would look like Enishi from Kenshin, Kalluto would look like Tomoe (kawaii alert!), and Kurapika would look a little, or a younger and cuter version, of Genjo Sanzo from ***Saiyuki***. Gon would...look like his otousan, and Leorio...well, he's old already.

From the Blue Physic Sorceress,
Chiharu Reis

Whew! So that's it for Volume 3 of Questor. See you next year for Volume 4!!!

*Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful... Oh yeah, Anime on Ice pics sent to us by Karen "Sakura" Delos Reyes and Ronnel V Gomez... Hmmm, I wonder if.... Uy, lapit na valentines. ^_^*

Igor Cabbab
Brown-nosed Managing Reindeer
(Why brown? I'm the one behind the red-nosed one whenever he suddenly stops dead in his tracks.)

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How We Recycle

by Igor Cabbab

(Photo models: Bambi's foot and Aldin's back)

Fig.1

Fig.2

Fig.3

We here at ***Questor*** realize the importance of conserving our natural resources. We have to protect and care for what God has given us and we, the Questor staff, are doing our part in our own small but special way. We recycle! (Anime is not the only thing we're concerned about, you know.)

The two most important things we need in order for us to be able to keep on going in order for us to be able to finish each and every issue of Questor: Food and Drink. As far as food is concerned, we eat almost anything! As for drink, we subsist on coffee and soda! Coffee is another matter altogether. But what of soda? After we open the aluminum soda can and drink all the soda, we follow two simple steps:

Fig.4

Step One:
Put can on table and stand on chair. (see Figure 1)

Step Two:
Stomp on can as if you're stomping on cockroach. (see Figure 2)

These stomped on aluminum cans are then packed into boxes (see Figure 3). From here, we decide which is the best way to help the environment. Of the four boxes we usually fill up in a matter of two days (see Figure 4), one will go to the wheelchair manufacturing plant so that they could be made into wheelchairs, one will go to the kitchen knife manufacturing plant so that they could be made into kitchen knives, one will go to the aluminum replacement appendage plant so that they could be made into aluminum replacement appendages and, lastly, one will go to the aluminum recycling plant so that they could be recycled and made into aluminum cans again.

One last note. We even furthered our recycling and conservation claim by totally eliminating the use of paper and plastic cups (to save the trees and the whales). See Figure 5 for more details.

Fig.5

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